

Afghanistan RAMP Rebuilding Agricultural Markets in Afghanistan

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Report on Market Structure Assessment through Agricultural Cooperative in Parwan and Nangrahar Provinces

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Report on Market Structure Assessment through Agricultural Cooperative in Parwan and Nangrahar Provinces

*From 28 Dec.03 to 31.Dec.03
and
05.01.04 to 09.01.04*

Mission members:

1. Dr. Qahar Samin Production Agronomist, RAMP
2. Atiqulah Mohibi Grant Officer, RAMP

Objective of the mission:

The main purpose and objectives of the mission were as follows:

- ❖ To determine the feasibility of construction or repairing various types of market infrastructure structures.
- ❖ To identify optimal locations for the various types of infrastructure structures.
- ❖ To find out the optimal ownership mechanism (public or private) for each type of structure.
- ❖ To determine the fee structure and willingness of producers and traders to pay for or rent different types of structures.
- ❖ To identify and assess construction alternative, i.e. type of structure, size , location,etc.
- ❖ To assess the potential market impact of the various type of structures.
- ❖ To study the possibility of the increasing farmers incomes through effective linkages between producers (Agriculture cooperatives), processors, and consumers (markets).

Methodology of the Market Assessment:

Two teams (each three surveyors) and one supervisor from the Department of Agricultural Cooperative of MAAH were assigned to conduct the Market structure Assessment in Parwan and Nangrahar provinces. They were also advised to study the feasibility of the construction of the storages and processing plant in five districts of the mentioned provinces.

In order to implement the program successfully a team from RAMP was also assigned to supervise and guide the teams, therefore the RAMP team guided and assisted the teams to conduct survey of the infrastructure structure of five agricultural cooperatives in each province (one cooperative in each district). The duration of the survey of the cooperatives for the surveyors were **planned five days** in each district (total 25 days) and for the supervisor was estimated 15 days.

RAMP team had assessed and filled the appropriated form for **six** individual cooperatives in Parwan and **three** cooperatives in Nangrahar provinces to demonstrate the requirement of the work. The rest of the work would be completed by the surveyors.

Note:

The detail and final result of the baseline survey form for the Market Structure Assessment (Through Agricultural Cooperative group Interview) for the Parwan and Nanagarhar province will be submitted at the end of survey.

The detail schedule of the surveyors is below;

Teams	Surveyors	Position	Date of survey		Remarks
Parwan Team	Mohammad Naem	Surveyor	27.12.03	20.01.04	
	Khair Mohammad.	Surveyor	27.12.03	20.01.04	
	Sayed Abdul Qader	Provincial Director of Agr. Cooperatives	27.12.03	20.01.04	
	Habibullah	Supervisor	28.12.03		
Nangarhar Team	A.R.Mojadidy	Surveyor	27.12.03	20.01.04	
	Ismail Khan	Surveyor	27.12.03	20.01.04	
	Azizullah	Provincial Director of Agril. Cooperatives	27.12.03	20.01.04	
	Habibullah	Supervisor	05.01.04	09.01.04	
RAMP Staff	Q.Samin	Production Agronomist	28.12.03 05.01.04	31.12.03 09.01.04	Parawn Nagarhar
	A.Mohibi	Grant Officer	28.12.03 05.01.04	31.12.03 09.01.04	Parawn Nagarhar

A. Parwan Province Assessment Team:

The mission left Kabul for Parwan province on 28.12.03 and arrived on the same day at 2:30 PM. The mission met with the Governor of the Parwan province and handed over the official letter to him, which was signed by the Minister of MAAH. The following key staff of the Parwan Agricultural Department were present in the meeting:

1. Director of Agricultural Cooperative Department from the MAAH.
2. Director of Agriculture of Parwan province.
3. Head of the Provincial Agricultural Cooperative Department.

The mission explained the objectives of the mission and USAID/Chemonics/RAMP policy and strategy to the Governor. The Governor of the Parwan province chaired the meeting. He appreciated USAID's humanitarian and development assistance for the people of Afghanistan especially for the people of the Parwan province. He stated to the mission some general information on agricultural activities including Agricultural cooperatives societies, and existing problems of the areas.

The below picture shows meeting with the Governor and other key staff of Parwan province;



After the meeting with the Governor, the mission proceeded to their assessment according to the following schedule;

Date	Time	Meeting	Remarks
28.12.03	10:00 AM	Departure from Kabul to Parwan province.	
	1:00PM	Meeting with the Governor of Parwan province	
	2:00PM	Meeting with the Directors and key staff of the ministry of Agricultural including cooperative Development Department	
	3:00 PM	Meeting with the members of Chaikal Agricultural cooperative society at Chikal village of Bagram district of Parwan province.	
29.12.03	8:30 AM	Meeting with the cooperative members (Farmers) of Sadaqat Agricultural cooperative society at Parwan city.	
	10:00AM	Meeting with the members (Farmers) of Khoja-Sayaran Agricultural cooperative society at Parwan city.	
	11:00AM	Meeting with the members (Farmers) of Sofayan Laghmani Agricultural cooperative society.	
	2:00PM	Meeting with the members (Farmers) of Sadullah Agricultural cooperative society.	
30.12.03	8:30 AM	Participated in General meeting of Qarabaghi newly established Agricultural cooperative society.	
	1:00PM	Meeting with the member (farmers) of Tagler-e-Zarbaia primary agricultural cooperative society at Pul-e-Matak district of Parwan province.	
31.12.03	3:00 PM	Departure to Kabul	

General Overview

This report is the result of a preliminary Market assessment survey, conducted by RAMP/Agricultural Infrastructure section with participation of Agricultural Cooperative Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Animal husbandry (MAAH).

This pilot study was conducted in, Bagram, Charikar and Pul-e-Matak districts of Parwan Province.

Parwan province is located 60 Km at the north of Kabul province. Charikar is the center of the province, which is the most densely populated and it was severely damaged by several years of war.

The population of the parwan province mainly constitutes of Displaced, returnees and a number of destitute people. Parwan and some districts of Kabul provinces fall under shamali valley. Under normal years, local wheat food production was not sufficient for the people of this province, and was supplemented through purchases. The main source of their income was derived from the sale of fresh and dried fruits, wage labour in agricultural fields, and work opportunities in Kabul city, Pakistan and Iran.

Mission Finding and Observation from Parwan province.

Brief Background of the Agricultural Cooperative in Afghanistan:

The agriculture cooperative movement in Afghanistan first started in 1995 and was given added impetus in 1963. With program support from the United Nations, the food and agriculture organizations (FAO) and the international Labor Office (ILO) the total number cooperatives surpassed 2,500 by 1980, when the newly installed government refocused the cooperative to resemble the Soviet model of collective agriculture. The subsequent change to a Taliban government virtually eliminated the cooperative structure until the current government came in to power. The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (MAAH) estimates that today there are **170** active and newly re-established cooperatives in Afghanistan, which are registered and many more are in the process of establishment. The general strategy of the central government is to reactivate cooperatives and develop the capacity of the cooperative to receive credit and marketing services. The orientation for cooperative development now begins with the local level instead of the top-down focus from the Soviet era, and a new law for agricultural cooperative enterprises has been drafted based on newly approved constitution and it is being reviewed by the Ministry of Justice.

The Department of Cooperative of the MAAH stressed that the provincial office staff has the responsibility to provide **technical assistance, guidelines and training to the farmers groups (cooperative)**, but **not involved in actual management of the primary cooperatives**. It was also indicated that during the last two years each cooperative submits their books every six months using international accounting standards and that each cooperative is audited annually. This Department has received funding from Japan and Iran for cooperative training and a grant from Iran for farm mechanization. The Department consists of divisions for **Training, Registration, Accounting, Administration, Marketing and Credit**.

The assessment team visited the provincial Agricultural cooperative Department and Bagram, Charikar and Pul-e-Matak districts of Parwan province. During our visits, we met with more than 10 individual agricultural cooperative's presidents and made a site visit to the six primary Agricultural cooperatives in three districts as per the above scheduled.

The administrative and management structure of the cooperatives have standard formula prescribed by the by-laws of a general assembly of all members, and a supervisory council

of at least three members. The management council has a minimum of four officers: director, assistant director, 'Writer' (Secretary), and 'cashier' (treasurer). The Parwan active agricultural primary cooperative lists are as follows:

List of active agriculture and animal husbandry cooperatives in Parwan province

NO	Districts	Name of cooperatives	Registration & Its date	Members	Share capital in Afs *	Entrance Fee in Afs **	Agriculture land					Livestock	Poultry
							Irrigated	Rain fed	Orchard	Cultivated	Total		
1	Bagram	Dehmskeyn	603/71.12.12	250	7491	5,000	Will be reported later	Will be reported later	72,450	Will be reported later	583	Will be reported later	Will be reported later
2	Bagram	Chaikal	913/60.12.13	240	13,795	4,800	“	“	10,150	“	495	“	“
3	Bagram	Mahiger	651/82.3.3	356	21,825	7,120	“	“	91,050	“	828	“	“
4	Bagram	Qalai Khawja	622/82.1.26	483	44,805	9,840	“	“	158,850	“	1,493	“	“
5	Bagram	Qalai Bayazed	652/82.3.5	295	20,295	5,900	“	“	68,700	“	677	“	“
6	Bagram	Dehhazarah	626/82.2.15	377	23,400	7,540	“	“	66,300	“	780	“	“
7	Charikar	Doghabad	593/81.1.29	132	9,390	2,640	“	“	1,000	“	313	“	“
8	Charikar	Akhtachi	604/81.12.8	107	8,865	2,140	“	“	1,090	“	260	276	537
9	Charikar	Dasht Wofyan	571/81.5.27	109	12,030	3,180	“	“	55,800	“	401	“	“
10	Charikar	Miyan Shakh	572/81.5.27	162	10,650	3,240	“	“	36,150	“	361	“	“
11	Charikar	Tatom Darah	587/81.2.28	298	18,150	5,961	“	“	2,000	“	576	520	557
12	Charikar	Dowlana	512/81.5.9	114	12,075	2,280			63,650		402		

							“	“		“		“	“
13	Charikar	Sadullah	421/68.5.9	114	7,090	2,280	“	“	42,450	“	253	“	“
14	Charikar	Sadaqat	573/81.5.29	170	14,850	3,400	“	“	77,700	“	135	715	1,018
15	Charikar	Tatom Dara Sofla	653/82.3.5	290	21,880	5,800	“	“	40,000	“	735	“	“
16	Charikar	Wofyan Lghmani	610/82.1.5	408	36,135	8,160	“	“	114,580	“	1,204	“	“
17	Charikar	Qalai Naw laghmani	675/82.4.22	128	16,725	2,560	“	“	47,100	“	557	“	“
18	Charikar	Telanchi	619/82.1.24	157	9,930	3,140	“	“	10,600	“	331	“	“
19	Charikar	Khaja Sayaran Alia	612/82.1.6	127	8,850	2,540	“	“	50,100	“	295	“	“
20	Jabal Saraj	Matak	602/81.12.11	108	8,205	2,140	“	“	1,450	“	374	“	“
21	Jabal Saraj	Tagler Zarbaia	608/81.12.24	147	13,230	3,940	“	“	2,310	“	441	“	“
22	Jabal Saraj	Bahadorbig	676/82.4.22	156	6,630	3,120	“	“	446	“	221	“	“
23	Sorkh Parsa	Itiqaf	707/82.6.31	72	14,400	3,600	“	“	71	“	300	“	“

* Share capital is the amount of the many which has been paid by the cooperative members for further transactions and development of the cooperatives. It would be used as guarantee for the bank while the cooperative apply for credit and loans. If the cooperative members are interested to council their membership from the cooperative, they can get their share capital plus the interest.

** Entrance Fee is the many which has been paid by the members of cooperative to get membership and it is used for the admin cost and it is not reimbursable to the members.

Note: Out of 23 above-mentioned primary agricultural cooperatives, we have visited six individual cooperatives as follows;

1. Chaikal Agricultural Cooperative located in Bagram districts.

During our visit with this cooperative, more than 100 cooperative members (farmers) were gathered in the general assembly of the cooperative. Directors of Agricultural, and Cooperative Department, some elders and president of Chaikal cooperative explained their views regarding the cooperative activities. We also explained the mission objectives and RAMP scope of work to the Chaikal cooperative general meeting.

According to the director of the cooperative, this cooperative was established 20 years ago but due to two decades of war, it was non-operational. Recently this cooperative was re-registered with 240 members (farmers) and Afs 13,795 share capital. A total of 10,150 jeribs of land is under cultivation (vineyards) by this cooperative.

At the general meeting of the cooperative it was agreed that two hectares of the cooperative land would be allocated for construction of a **Raisin processing plant**, which is the first priority for the cooperative. With the construction of this processing plant the production of **seven** more individual cooperative societies will be covered and **99 villages** will benefit from this plant. Total population of this district is 97,761 and main products of the areas are grapes (0000000), raisins and vegetables. Presently they sell most of their grapes as fresh and part of it would be sold after drying (raisin).

At the end of the Market Assessment a form, which was developed by RAMP and Cooperative staff, was filled as a sample for the cooperative staff, who are currently in the field. Cooperative surveyors will submit the detailed information on the cooperative at the end of survey.

The below picture shows a small number of the participants in Chaikal cooperative general meeting;



The below picture is a piece of the land (two hectares), which Chaikal cooperative allocated for the construction of the **Raisin Processing Plant**.

The mentioned land is located to the west side of the Kabul Parwan main road;



2. Sadaqat Agricultural Cooperative, located in center of Charikar, Parwan province.

The main production of this cooperative are vegetables including tomatoes, onion, potatoes etc.

More than 110 cooperative members (farmers), who participated in the meeting, felt there was a need for **fruit and vegetable market** therefore, they have allocated one hectare of cooperative land for the market construction. The location of this land is along the main road one kilometer from the Charikar city. 170 farmers were members of this cooperative and their share capital was estimated at Afs 14,850 and a total of 77,700 jerib of land of this cooperative is covered by vineyard.

The following two pictures are the piece of land, which is allocated by Sadaqat Cooperative for construction of market;



3. Sofyan Laghmani Agricultural Cooperative, located in the south of the Charikar, Parwan province.

This cooperative is also one of the most active and productive cooperative in the area. The main crops of this cooperative are vegetables and grapes. They are interested to **constructing one cold storage structure**, therefore the general meeting of the cooperative allocated **4 hectares of land for the construction of cold storage**, which is their first priority. The mentioned land is located next to the wide road (40 meters), its picture is below;



4. Sadullah Agricultural Cooperative, located in east part of the Charikar city, Parwan province.

The agricultural land of this cooperative is a large and flat. The main crops of this cooperative are vegetables (tomatoes, onion, cucumbers, carrots, turnip, etc.). Irrigation water is sufficient for the vegetable cultivation. Two big canals of water cross the area and flow to the Bagram district. The cooperative members have expressed interest in constructing a **cold storage and vegetable processing plant**, since the Vegetables are grown in a large quantities, therefore they allocated more than **one hectare** of the cooperative land for the construction of plant.

The following pictures are the Sadullah agricultural cooperative areas.



The above picture is the view of area, which is irrigated by the first canal and below picture shows the natural view of the Sadullah village, which the cooperative allocated for the construction of vegetable processing plant.



5. **Qarabagh Rabat Agricultural Cooperative, located in Bagram district of Parwan province (east part of the Charikar city).**

This cooperative was established 10 years ago and has 250 members and 1,000 jeribs of vineyard. This cooperative covers 4 main villages. This cooperative was re-registered on 31.12.03. The managerial committee (board of directors) of this cooperative was elected in democratic way in a general meeting of the members. More than 250 farmers participated in the general meeting. The meeting was opened by the Director of Agricultural cooperative of the Department of MAAH. The elders of the community and technical staff of the provincial cooperative of Parwan province also expressed their views. The following pictures show the cooperative election of the board of directors and other key staff of the cooperative;





6. Tagaler Zarbaia Agricultural Cooperative, located in Pul-e- Matak district of Parwan province (north part of the Charikar city).

This cooperative is located in the northern part of Charikar city of Parwan province, which is named Pull-e-Matak district. The cooperative was re-established in late December 2002. A total of 550 hectares land is under cultivation by this cooperative and its membership is made up of 147 farmers are its members. The share capital of this cooperative is 13,230 Afs. This cooperative covers more than 6 villages and main products of the area are vegetables. As per the request of cooperative members, their first priority for this area is **processing plant for tomatoes and other vegetables**, therefore the members of this cooperative **allocated 3 jeribs of land** which is next to the main road for the construction-processing plant. The following picture is the view of the allocated land for the construction of the processing plant by the mentioned cooperative;



B. Nangarhar Province:

The mission left Kabul for Nangarhar province on 05.01.04 and arrived at the same day at 2:00PM. The mission met with the deputy director of Nangarhar Agricultural and director of Agricultural cooperative departments and other Key staff of the mentioned departments.

We explained the objective of the mission and USAID,Chemonics/RAMP policy and strategy to the participants. The Deputy of the Agricultural Department stated to the mission some general

information on Agricultural activities including the Agricultural cooperatives societies and its existing problems.

The detail schedule of the mission is below;

Date	Time	Meeting	Remarks
05.01.04	8:00AM 2:00PM 2:30 PM 5:00PM	Departure from Kabul for Nangarhar province Meeting with the Directors and key staff of Agricultural and cooperative Development Departments. Meeting with the members of Jo-e-Dah (canal # 10) Agricultural cooperative society at Naqalin village of Behsoud district of Nangarhar province. Meeting with the Governor of Nangarhar province.	
06.01.04	8:00 AM 10:00AM 2:00PM	Departure to Sarkh Road district of Nangarhar province. Meeting with the members (Farmers) of Kakrak Agricultural cooperative society. Departure to Nanagarhar city.	
07.01.04	8:00 AM 10:00PM 2:00 PM	Departure to Bati Kot district. Meeting with the member (farmers) of Shaikh Qadem primary agricultural cooperative society at Chardehi village of Bati Kot district of Nangrhar Parwan province. Departure to Kabul.	
08.01.04	8:00 AM	Meeting with ICARDA and Monitoring of ICARDA project funded by RAMP.	
09.01.04	9:00 PM	Departure to Kabul	

Note:

Since the Governor was not available and his deputy was sick, therefore we could not meet them.

As per the above schedule, the mission visited the provincial Agricultural cooperative Department, Behsoud , Sarkhroad and Batikot districts of Nangarhar province. During our visits, we met and visited the three individual agricultural cooperatives societies and made a site visit at the village level.

The administrative and management structure of the cooperative was standard model prescribed by the by-laws of a general assembly of all members, and a supervisory council of at least three members. The management council has a minimum of four officers: director, assistant director, 'Writer' (Secretary), and 'cashier' (treasurer).

The Nangarhar actives and re-registered primary agricultural cooperative list is as follows;

List of Active Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Cooperative in Nangarhar Province

NO	Districts/Village	Name of cooperatives	Registration & Its date	Members	Share Capital in Afs	Agriculture land					Livestock	Poultry
						Irrigated	Rain fed	Orchard	Cultivated	Total		
1	Chardih	Shikh qadam Baba	Will be reported later	Will be reported later	20,100	Will be reported later	Will be reported later	Will be reported later	Will be reported later	1095	Will be reported later	Will be reported later
2	Tokani	Tokani	"	"	4,700	"	"	"	"	47	"	"
3	Marko	Joe kalan	"	"	10,000	"	"	"	"	203	"	"
4	Miajee baba	Miajee baba	"	"	41,700	"	"	"	"	416	"	"
5	Ghani khil	Ghaljai	"	"	18,480	"	"	"	"	226	"	"
6	Ghani khil	Dag ghaljai	"	"	18,480	"	"	"	"	226	"	"
7	Khani khil	Katali	"	"	12,840	"	"	"	"	160	"	"
8	Chinar achin	Shahed Hukumran	"	"	5,600	"	"	"	"	135.5	"	"
9	Banu	Gundak	"	"	11,800	"	"	"	"	1165	"	"
10	Gardi گردی	Nizam baba	"	"	14,000	"	"	"	"	1006	"	"
11	Hazar paw Momandara	Hazar paw	"	"	5,100	"	"	"	"	252	"	"

12	Markoo	Joe - 25	"	"	7,800	"	"	"	"	475	"	"
13		Miajee Baba	"	"	21,100	"	"	"	"	1,805	"	"

Out 13 existing agricultural cooperatives in Nangarhar , we visited only three cooperatives in three individual districts as follows:

1. Joi Deh Agricultural Cooperative located in Behsoud district.

During our visit with this cooperative, more than 150 cooperative members (farmers) were gathered in the general assembly of this cooperative.

Directors of Agricultural, and Cooperative Department, some elders of the community and president of Joi Deh cooperative explained to the meeting participants some information about cooperative background and its activities. RAMP mission also explained the RAMP objectives and its scope of work to the cooperative general meeting.

According to the director of the cooperative, this cooperative was established 15 years ago but due to two decades of war it was non operational. Recently this cooperative was re-registered with 240 members (farmers) and Afs 13,795 of share capital. A total of 10,150 jeribs of land is under cultivation by this cooperative

At the general meeting of the cooperative it was agreed that **one hectare** of cooperative land would be allocated for **construction of a tomatoes and other vegetables** processing plant, which is their priority. With the construction of this processing plant the production of 3 more individual cooperative societies will be covered and 25 villages will benefit from this plant.

It is one of the most populated district in Nangarhar province. The main products of this district are vegetables and wheat grain. Presently they sell their products to the middle men and local markets.

The below pictures show the cooperative general meeting;





This picture is view of the land given for the construction of processing unit.



2. Kakrak primary Agricultural Cooperative, located in Sorkh Road district of Nanagarhar province.

This cooperative was established 20 years ago and had 228 members and total share capital of this cooperative is 11,800 Afs. A total of 2,000 jeribs of agricultural land is under cultivation by this cooperative. This cooperative covers more than 20 villages and total population of this district is around 15,000 people.

This cooperative was re-registered recently. The managerial committee (board of directors) of this cooperative was elected in democratic way in general meeting by cooperative members. More than 180 farmers participated in the general meeting.

The main products of this area were wheat, maize, rice and vegetables. The members of this cooperative were complaining, that they have no storage facilities in the area, therefore they sell their products at very low price, even before the harvest season. So they requested to **construct storage/cold storage or processing unit** for their vegetable, therefore they have allocated one hectare land for the mentioned purpose.

The below picture is view of the allocated land;



3. **Chardehi's Shikh Qadim village Agricultural primary Cooperative Located in Bati Kot District of Nanagarhar Province.**

This cooperative is located in the east part of Jalalabad city of Nangarhar provinc. The mentioned cooperative was been re-established in late last year 2003. A Total of 1400 hectares land is under cultivation by this cooperative and 210 farmers are its members. The share capital of this cooperative is 20,100 Afs. This cooperative cover more than 35 villages and main products of the area are vegetable, wheat, maize, peanuts and sugarcane. As per the request of cooperative members, thier first priority is **processing plant for vegetable sugarcane**. So the members of this cooperative **allocated 5 jeribs of land for the construction of the plant**.

The following pictures are the view of the cooperative meeting and allocated land for the **construction of the processing plant** by the mentioned cooperative;







4. Information on ICARDA projects.

Before going for monitoring of the ICARDA projects, the RAMP mission went to ICARDA office in Jalalabad city and informed them, that we have planed to see their wheat, potatoes (tomatoes and other projects) on 08.01.04. When we went to ICARDA office no technical staff were present at their office. ICARDA guard said that the technical staffs are in the **Research farm of Shisham Bagh**, then we proceed to the mentioned farm, unfortunately ICARDA technical staff were **not available there either**.

Conclusion:

In both Provinces (Parwan and Nangarhar), there are well setup of the Agricultural cooperative departments and managed by the technical staff including a directors from the MAAH. As we found, in each districts are active primary agricultural cooperatives societies managed by the farmers (members) and its managerial committee were elected by vote of the members. It worth mentioning the present Agricultural cooperatives system is a democratic system (**down to top**) and completely different form the **Farmer Union**, which was established by communist regime (**top to down**). They have accounting and financial system controlled by the members. They have current account in the De- Afghanistan Bank branches at the provincial level. So there is a good opportunity for RAMP to work with them and assist their proposed projects. It worth mentioning, that the cooperative members need a proper credit system for their cooperative because the **cooperative members lost their financial capability** during the past critical years of war. Also it should be mentioned, that the poppy cultivation compared to the past years expanded due to the poor economical status of the farmers in both provinces. If the Agricultural cooperative are supported, guided and these kinds of infrastructures established, then they will find a source of income and their standard of living will be raised, poppy cultivation might be reduced.